

**From:** [R6HarveyPIO](#)  
**To:** [R6HarveyInfo](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Follow up question... Inspections of SJRWP - questions  
**Date:** Friday, September 8, 2017 5:40:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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**From:** Miller, Gary  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 5:40:06 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** R6HarveyPIO  
**Cc:** Sanchez, Carlos; Meyer, John  
**Subject:** FW: Follow up question... Inspections of SJRWP - questions

FYI, topographic & bathymetric surveys are in progress, as well as manual probing & EPA Dive Team inspections to assess cap. Statements on cap conditions/releases based on areas above water & visible; surveys, probing & Dive Team inspections to assess underwater portions of cap. Sediment sample & surface water samples were collected on 9/7/17 & sent for quick turnaround (5 day) dioxin analysis (fasted lab can do now is 5 days). Any underwater areas of missing cap in areas of concern will be sampled (sediment) prior to repairing cap.

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**From:** Scott Jones [<mailto:sjones@galvbay.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 07, 2017 11:57 AM  
**To:** Miller, Garyg <[Miller.Garyg@epa.gov](mailto:Miller.Garyg@epa.gov)>; Walters, Donn <[walters.donn@epa.gov](mailto:walters.donn@epa.gov)>; Katie.Delbecq@tceq.texas.gov  
**Cc:** O'Rourke, Terence (CAO) <[Terence.O'Rourke@cao.hctx.net](mailto:Terence.O'Rourke@cao.hctx.net)>; rock owens <[Rock.Owens@cao.hctx.net](mailto:Rock.Owens@cao.hctx.net)>; Sanchez, Carlos <[sanchez.carlos@epa.gov](mailto:sanchez.carlos@epa.gov)>; Bob Stokes <[bstokes@galvbay.org](mailto:bstokes@galvbay.org)>  
**Subject:** Follow up question... Inspections of SJRWP - questions

Hello Again Gary and Donn-  
My apologies. In addition to the items below, I also meant to ask if EPA will perform, or oversee the performance, of a new elevation/bathymetry survey in the wake of Harvey.

Thanks-  
Scott

**Scott A. Jones**  
Director of Advocacy

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Dear Gary, Donn, and Katie-

I was reading the September 6<sup>th</sup> TCEQ news update about Hurricane Harvey response activities at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/news/releases/09-06-status-of-systems-in-areas-affected-by-harvey>.

I note the following text attributed to EPA/TCEQ:

*The San Jacinto Waste Pits site has a temporary armored cap designed to prevent migration of hazardous material; some areas that rock been displaced and liner is exposed. The potential responsible party has mobilized heavy equipment and is placing rock on different places on the armored cap to repair the defensive surface. The liner is in place and functional so we don't have any indication that the underlying waste*

*materials have been exposed. If we find a breach in the exposed liner, we direct the responsible party to collect samples to determine if any materials have been released. Crews continue to surveying portions of the cap that are submerged and the EPA dive teams will survey the cap underwater when conditions allow.*

I have some questions that I hope you will answer for me:

1. How can one state that “the liner is in place” and “we don’t have an indication that the underlying waste materials have been exposed” when you have not been able to completely inspect all portions of the cap?
2. How can one suggest that no waste materials have been exposed when the NW quadrant of the cap has no liner?
3. I am worried that rock will be placed over areas of the cap where there might be problems BEFORE you can complete thorough inspections. Will EPA be able to properly inspect for actual damages to the cap before portions are covered up by rock?
4. How can one tell if sampling will truly be able to assess whether toxins have been released? Are you sure you know where to sample? How do you know where floodwaters of this magnitude and variables in current vectors, may have transported any waste material? Will the sampling locations be representative of the situation?
5. I have not seen evidence of successful fish and crab tissue sampling prior to this event. I know that EPA tried to sample some killifish in the wake of the late 2015/early 2016 cap problems being discovered. Even if you had sampled some killifish, how do you know for sure that contamination had not been released, and is still being released, to fish and crab? How can you know for sure that more dioxin has not gotten into the food chain?

Can you please provide answers to these questions?

Finally, can you provide a site update, regarding inspections and findings in the wake of the flood event?

I appreciate the work you are doing.

Thanks-  
Scott

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